

# Augustana/Halstad/Immanuel - United Valley Parish

## 2026 - UVP March Newsletter

In the Gospel of John (18:37-38), when Jesus was being questioned by Pilate, Pilate asked Jesus, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

It seems like a straightforward question, but the answer wasn't that clear, in Jesus' day, or in ours.

Is the truth what those in power want to hear? Is the truth what those who write history say it is? What is truth to our politicians today? How many are acting in the best interest of the American people? How many are acting solely to get or maintain power? How often do the Pilate's of our world define truth based on expediency? Pilate said Jesus was innocent, and killed him anyway, because he was afraid of the crowd. He feigned interest in the truth, while protecting his self-interest. Truth was the last thing he wanted to hear. How often do the Sanhedrins of our world set a course based not on deep theological veracity or conviction, but on a desire to consolidate power; their power, not God's. At Jesus' trial, the high priests abandoned all pretense of their devotion to God and conspired to keep Rome, and themselves, in control. They were willing to trade Jesus for Barabbas, and their God for Caesar.

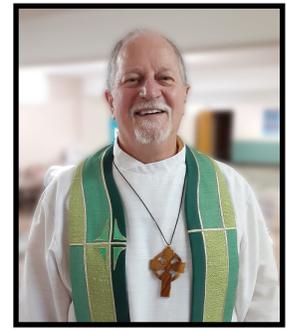
Only one leader acted out of anything other than self-interest: the shepherd-king who would lay down his life for his sheep. The grasp for power by all others was for nothing. Pilate was banished to Gaul (modern day Spain-the western edge of the Roman Empire) three years later by the emperor Caligula and six years later Herod Antipas' nephew accused Herod of subversion against Rome and Caligula also exiled Herod to Gaul. The Sanhedrin lost the positions they were willing to kill for when Rome violently put down a revolt 37 years later, utterly destroying the Temple they were supposed to serve, never to be rebuilt.

Jesus, standing before Pilate said: "For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. If you ask people to tell you what Jesus' mission was in the world, you might hear, "to love us," "to protect us," or "to care for us." In the Gospel of John, however, Jesus says he came into the world to "testify to the truth." It's revealing how Jesus describes the devil as "the father of lies" (John 8:44). Fittingly, in the same chapter Jesus says, "You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (John 8:32). But let's be honest; the truth can also make you angry. And sometimes it should. Martin Luther King Jr., Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and Oscar Romero, among many others, all died because they dared to tell their fellow citizens the truth. Just like Jesus did.

Jesus spoke truth to Pilate and the Sanhedrin; a truth they didn't want to hear: the only power they had is the power God granted them, and despite all evidence to the contrary, even in the face of Jesus' crucifixion, God is still in charge. God allowed Jesus to be handed over. God allowed the Sanhedrin to do their dirty work. God allowed Rome to crucify God's Son. God allowed this abuse of power, using it to serve God's purposes. But God won't allow it forever!

Pastor John

[I took one main idea for this article from Frank G. Honeycutt "The Truth-Teller" in the Grounded in Grace section of *Living Lutheran*, March 2018.]



**Pastor John Andrews**  
701-306-2575  
218-456-2144

**HLC Office Manager:**  
hlp@rrv.net

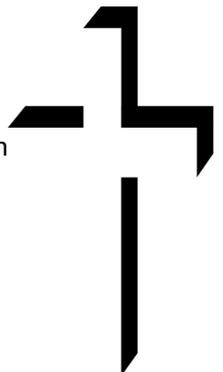
**ILC Office Manager:**  
Diann Prussia  
immanuel1@loretel.net

## Prayer List

Rod Ambuehl  
Lorie Arneson (Vonnie Jacobson's sister)  
Ron Berry (Karen Smart's brother)  
Elaine Borgen (Brian Borgen's mother)  
Matt Finey  
Terry Guttormson  
Westin Hage (son of Dustin and Tasha Hage)  
Katie Halvorson  
Marlene Hetland  
Ciara Hibl  
Tom Hinkley (son of Janice Hinkley)  
Cole Kaiser (son of Melanie Nelson's niece)  
Allison Lindgren (sister of Darin Johnson)  
Paul Martinson  
Pastor Myron Nysether  
Regan Okroi  
Marcia Onsgard  
Harlan Rise  
Helen Rognlie  
Greg Strand  
Becky Todd  
Diane (Penny) Todd  
Gloria Uekert (Amy Sweeney's mom)  
Logan Wolden

### Military Service of:

Colton Armstrong  
Steele Armstrong  
Dustin Belilles  
Riley Culp  
Ethan Hellerud  
Stephen McCraven  
Carlos Medina  
Gabriel Mertz  
Tucker Hansen





## 2014 United Valley Parish Lenten Worship



# 4-H CLUB



Spaghetti and Meat Sauce  
Chicken Alfredo  
Garlic Bread  
Salad  
Dessert

## Wednesday, March 18



### 5-7pm

Join our hygiene  
drive!

We're collecting new essential hygiene items (e.g., toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, deodorant) for Hometown HOPE and will collect items at the supper.

# March 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>9am ALC with Communion 9am ILC Worship 9:45am ILC Coffee &amp; Fellowship</p>	<p>9:30am ILC Quilting 12:30pm HLC Quilting at Heritage House 6pm BSF at HLC</p>		<p>Lenten Worship at Halstad 6-7pm Soup &amp; Sandwich Served by Halstad 7pm UVP Service at HLC</p>	<p>9:30am-4pm Hendrum Food Pantry at Hendrum Professional Building</p>		<p>9am-2pm Renew Thrift Store Open</p>
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<p>9am ILC Service 9:45am ILC Coffee &amp; Fellowship 10:30am HLC Worship Coffee &amp; Fellowship 10am 11:15 HLC Council Meeting</p>	<p>9:30am ILC Quilting 12:30pm HLC Quilting at Heritage House 6pm BSF at HLC</p>		<p>Lenten Worship at Halstad 6-7pm Soup &amp; Sandwich Served by Immanuel 7pm UVP Service at HLC</p>	<p>9:30am-4pm Hendrum Food Pantry at Hendrum Professional Building</p>		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<p>9am ILC Service with Communion ILC Council Installation 9:45 am ILC Council meeting 9:45am ILC Coffee &amp; Fellowship with Communion 10:30am HLC Worship with Communion Coffee and Fellowship 10am</p>	<p>9:30am ILC Quilting 12:30pm HLC Quilting at Heritage House 6pm BSF at HLC</p>		<p>1:30pm ILC WELCA 5-7pm Freewill Community Dinner by Super Sewers 4-H Club 6-7pm Kids Club 7pm UVP Lenten Service at HLC</p>	<p>9:30am-4pm Hendrum Food Pantry at Hendrum Professional Building</p>		<p>9am-2pm Renew Thrift Store Open</p>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<p>9am ILC Service 9:45am ILC Coffee &amp; Fellowship with Communion 10:30am HLC Worship Coffee &amp; Fellowship 10am</p>	<p>9:30am ILC Quilting 12:30pm HLC Quilting at Heritage House 6pm BSF at HLC</p>		<p>Lenten Worship at Halstad 6-7pm Soup &amp; Sandwich Served by Augustana 7pm UVP Service at HLC</p>	<p>9:30am-4pm Hendrum Food Pantry at Hendrum Professional Building</p>		
29	30	31	<p><b>Holy Week:</b>            March 29, Palm Sunday, 9am service at Immanuel Lutheran;            10:30am service at Halstad Lutheran            April 2, Maundy Thursday, 7pm service at Immanuel Lutheran            April 3, Good Friday, 7pm service at Augustana Lutheran    <b>Easter Sunday, April 5:</b>            7:30am Augustana Lutheran            9:00am Immanuel Lutheran            10:30am Halstad Lutheran</p> 			
<p><b>PALM SUNDAY</b>            9am ILC Service            9:45am ILC Coffee &amp; Fellowship with Communion            10:30am HLC Worship Coffee &amp; Fellowship 10am</p>	<p>9:30am ILC Quilting 12:30pm HLC Quilting at Heritage House 6pm BSF at HLC</p>					



# Augustana & Halstad Lutheran Churches Newsletter 2026

## Halstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting Sunday, January 11, 2026

Council Members present: Jon Hellerud, Jackie Hellerud, Cheryl and Darin Johnson, Chad and Alli Tice, Pastor John and Pam Vandermeer.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Jon Hellerud.

No devotion was given because church services preceded the meeting.

**Secretary:** Minutes from last meeting presented

**Memorial Secretary:** \$100 donation this month

**Treasurer/Financial Secretary:** Expenditures for Dumpling Dinner advertising, reimbursement to Kim for the bibles, and paid UVP for bible school.

**Pastor:** Lenten Services will be held at Halstad Lutheran at 7:00 PM with dinner beforehand. Maundy Thursday Service will be held at Immanuel, and Good Friday Service at Augustana. Pastor will be unavailable for Augustana's annual meeting.

**A motion was made by Jackie and seconded by Chad to approve the reports supplied. MC**

The council looked over the budget for 2026.

Council positions that need filling: vice president, deacon, trustee, and treasurer.

**A resolution was made to allow reductions on the council, primarily those of deacons and trustees. A motion was made by Jackie and seconded by Darin. MC**

Someone needs to audit the books.

The Jacobson boys will no longer be mowing the cemeteries. We thank them for the wonderful job they did in keeping our cemeteries nicely groomed. Chad Tice and family will take over the mowing for the year.

HLC will serve the community dinner on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. Discussed the roof leak in the Renew Store and the buzzing of the carillon.

**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Cheryl, seconded by Chad. MC**

The meeting concluded with "The Lord's Prayer".

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam Vandermeer

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## Halstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting Sunday, February 15, 2026 - Pending Approval

All council members are in attendance.

Newly elected President Darin Johnson called the meeting to order. Darin welcomed new and returning members.

When council meets following church services, no devotions will be given by the Pastor.

The UVP Parish Commission meeting took place on February 5th. Membership percentages were discussed. Currently HLC stands at 50%, while ILC is at 35% and Augustana at 15%. ILC will work on cleaning up their membership rolls.

A UVP account will be created for Sunday School.

**Secretary:** minutes provided

**Deacon:** nothing to report

**Trustee:** Darin looked at water soaked ceiling panels in Renew store.

**Memorial Secretary:** \$100 donation for technology.

**Treasurer:** Paid \$257 for copyright use. Still paying on advertising for the dumpling dinner.

**Pastor:** Things are working for services in the Narthex. May have to add more chairs for Lenten services.

**A motion was made by Donna, seconded by Kyle to approve the reports as supplied. MC**

**New & Other Business:** Still some openings for Wednesday Freewill Dinners. The months available are May, June, July, and August.

February 18th Community Dinner will be soup and sandwiches put on by the area churches with monetary or non-perishable food donations going to the North Country Food Bank and the Hendrum Food Bank. Ash Wednesday services will be held following the dinner at 7 PM.

Darin will check into a receipt requested for a burial plot.

**Cheryl made a motion for FCS to take over general cleaning during their month. Donna seconded the motion. MC**

**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Donna, seconded by Pam. MC**

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Next Council Meeting will be held March 8th after church.  
Respectfully submitted, Pam Vandermeer

# What's New & Changing in Our Church

As noted in the February council meeting minutes, we have decided - following Augusta-na's example - to partner with Faith, Care & Share to help with cleaning and general church upkeep during their designated month.

Before anyone feels overwhelmed, please know that tasks will range from simple to more detailed, and we will support one another throughout the process. Below is a general list of duties, Each monthly group can decide how

to divide responsibilities, and we may have individuals who prefer taking on specific tasks each month or two weeks such as vacuuming, sweeping/mopping floors, taking out garbage, and so on.

Nothing is finalized about the exact structure. This decision was made by the council to help save approximately \$800 per month, and with everyone pitching in, we can accomplish this together.

**Open doors before church Sunday mornings (9:00am) and lock up after church.**

**Vacuum all carpets, doormats and dust as needed. (pastor's office, secretary's office, altar area, lounge, ladies quilting rooms, children's room, nursery)**

**Vacuum windows in the narthex, sanctuary/altar as needed.**

**Dust and wash all floors as needed. (halls, entryways, fellowship hall, kitchen)**

**Wash ovens and burners as needed mainly after each event.**

**Clean and sanitize pastor's, and other two bathrooms weekly. (sink, toilet, sweep/mop floor, clean mirror, empty garbage)**

**Empty all garbage cans: offices, all meeting rooms, kitchen.**

**Fill all altar candles after each service or event when using the sanctuary. (Will need to replace wicks, and clean candles periodically)**

**Wash windows between chapel and sanctuary weekly. Wash all windows as needed (including door windows). May, July, September.**

**Wash all tables in the fellowship hall as needed.**

**Responsible for purchasing: Sanitizers, soaps, air fresheners, paper towels for the kitchen (by the case), garbage bags, toilet tissue (by the case), all cleaning products, etc. (Valley General charge under Halstad Lutheran Church)**



## Immanuel Lutheran News & Views

*We are a congregation strengthened by God's Word, Reaching out to all people with Christ's love.*

321 Main Street  
P.O. Box 130  
Hendrum, MN 56550

Church: 218-861-6218  
Food Shelf: 218-861-5700

### ELEVATOR AVAILABLE



You can contact  
Pastor John Andrews

Email: jtjmandrews1976@gmail.com  
Phone: 701-306-2575

### MARCH FAITH, CARE AND SHARE

Pam Hedrich (Team Leader)  
Brian & Debby Borgen  
Dean & Cindy Todd

### FLOWER AND ALTAR GUILD

Debby Borgen and Becky Harrington

### COMMUNION PREPARATION

Diane Nelson and Pam Hedrich

IMMANUEL CHURCH COUNCIL		
PRESIDENT	Faye DeLong	218-456-2640
V. PRESIDENT	Mike Smart	218-861-6420
TREASURER	Tod Harrington	701-860-6280
SECRETARY	Becky Harrington	701-860-6280
DEACON	Amy Sweeney	919-770-6812
BOARD OF ED.	Bonnie Scholl	701-860-6470
TRUSTEE	Del Schnabel	218-861-6284

## Immanuel Lutheran Church Council February 8, 2026

**Present:** Faye DeLong, Bonnie Scholl, Amy Sweeney, Tod Harrington, Becky Harrington, Del Schnabel, Pastor John Andrews, Mike Smart

**Absent:** None

Faye called the meeting to order at 9:55 am on February 8, 2026. She opened with devotions based on "Don't Lose Sight of Your Nonprofit's Mission: Friendly Tips for Staying Focused." We committed to revisiting our congregational mission statement regularly.

### Report Highlights:

- **Pastor:** Lenten services will be at Halstad Lutheran and based on Romans; Maundy Thursday at Immanuel, Good Friday at Augustana; Easter Sunday services will be 7:30 am at Augustana, 9 am Immanuel, 10:30 am Halstad. We will be welcoming six new members in the future.
- **Secretary:** Minutes from January 11, 2026 meeting.
- **Treasurer:** January and February reports will be shared at the March council meeting.
- **Deacon:** 2026 Mission of the Year is The Gideons International.
- **Trustee:** Replace office lights with LED's and will replace others as needed.
- **Board of Education:** Kids Club is held the third Wednesday each month, 6-7 pm at Halstad Lutheran in conjunction with the community meal. An adult Bible Study is underway and will finish in a few weeks.
- **President:** Faye gave an overview of the United Valley Parish council meeting

held January 29, 2026. Agenda items included the Lenten worship schedule, pastor salary/benefits, Confirmation, UVP education financial account, winter weather guideline, and the parish agreement, including financial administration.

Motion by Amy, seconded by Bonnie, to approve the reports. Motion carried.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:**

- Diane Nelson is planning a Family Game afternoon, February 22 at Immanuel to get people of all ages together.
- February 18, 5-7 pm, is the community soup kitchen; Immanuel will provide soup, bread, dessert, and serving help. Immanuel will provide Lenten support on March 11.
- Council installation will be March 15 during worship.

Next council meeting is March 15 following worship.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m., and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Becky Harrington

**COUNCIL INSTALLATION**  
**March 15th during worship.**

**ILC Council Meeting**  
**March 15 following worship**

**Immanuel WELCA Meeting**  
**March 18, 1:30 PM.**

**Saturday, April 4th, Tentative date for Immanuel's Annual Pancake Breakfast**



## **HOLY WEEK**

**March 29**  
**Palm Sunday**

9 AM worship at Immanuel Lutheran;  
10:30 AM worship at Halstad Lutheran.

**Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7 PM**  
worship at Immanuel Lutheran

**Good Friday, April 3, 7 PM**  
worship at Augustana Lutheran

## **EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5**

Augustana Lutheran, 7:30 AM

Immanuel Lutheran, 9 AM

Halstad Lutheran, 10:30 AM

## **EASTER LILIES FOR EASTER SUNDAY**



If you would like to help beautify Immanuel Lutheran Church on Easter Sunday with an Easter Lily in memory of or in honor of a loved one,

please complete the form that will be placed on the table in the sanctuary entry.